

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 and 107-110 have been canceled. Claims 36-106 are now pending in the application, of which claims 44-100 and 102-106 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 36, 41-43, and 101 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by UK Patent Application Publication No. GB 2,316,265 to Bowater et al.; claim 37 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowater et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,577,111 to Iida et al.; and claims 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowater et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,692,033 to Farris. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Bowater et al. cited by the Examiner was not published until February 18, 1998, which is after at least the March 17, 1997 filing date of Japanese priority application No. 09-063469. Applicants perfected the claim from this priority application with the submission of a verified English translation thereof with the previous Response to Office Action filed on May 8, 2009. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Bowater et al. is not prior art to the claimed invention, and request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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